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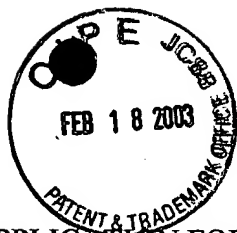
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FEB 24 2003

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PATENT APPLICATION FOR: REFLECTIVE DECORATIVE CANE

INVENTOR; ANNE TROY COUNTRYMAN

APPLICATION NO. 09,927,029

REMARKS:

SARGENT PATENT U.S. PATENT NO. 4,013,881

The Countryman PETG cane differs from the Sargent cane in the following ways:

1. The Sargent cane has a tubular Lucite shaft with different type of plastic than the properties of PETG plastics.
2. The Sargent cane is an illuminated safety signal cane.
3. The Lucite shaft contains a switch and a flashing lamp. The Sargent cane is controlled through the use of an electrical switch and coiled wire. The inner Lucite tubular "string" reflector" flashes.

In summary, the Countryman PETG cane is made of a different type of plastic resin than the Lucite used in the Sargent cane. The Countryman cane uses foil and decorated silver garland as reflective material. The PETG cane has no flashing light, no batteries and no reflecting fins. The weight of the Sargent cane is not given, but because of the Lucite plastic, the batteries and the electrical switch, it must be much heavier than the 13 oz. PETG garland cane of the 19 oz. foil cane. The handle of the Sargent cane is not detailed in the patent, but there is an obvious difference in appearance. The Countryman cane is designed to bear weight and to provide a certain flexibility in use.



REMARKS:

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HUNNICUTT PATENT U.S. 5,351,704

The Countryman PETG cane proposed differs from the Hunnicut cane in the following ways:

1. The Hunnicut cane is an illuminated cane using zinc or nickel cadmium batteries and a convex mirror, a conical mirror with concave sides. The Hunnicut cane shows the electrical circuit of a lighted walking cane.
2. The Hunnicut cane has three parts: a handle or upper end (illustration 24 and 26) which can be taken apart to access the electrical components of the cane. "The upper section can be constructed of precision die cast fiber reinforced plastic, aluminum ". The lower end of the cane "can be constructed of a clear LEXAN tm tube having internal threads on the upper end thereof." "The Hunnicut cane has a body portion containing clear polycarbonate".

In summary, the Countryman cane does not claim to be a lighted walking cane. The Countryman cane simply reflects light in the area or oncoming car light. The Countryman cane is made of PETG, a different type of plastic resin, than the Hunnicut cane. The Countryman cane uses foil and decorated garland as reflective material. The Countryman consists of one or two tubes depending on the use of foil or garland. The Countryman cane can not be taken apart and does not have to be taken apart to be a reflective cane.



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REMARKS;

DUBOIS PATENT U.S. NO. 4,967,322

The Countryman PETG cane proposed differs from the Dubois cane in the following ways:

1. The Dubois patent is for a reflective stick with a rigid support cylinder that can be used as a warning device or held in the hand while walking to ward off passing traffic. The Dubois reflective stick's "primary purpose is for night traffic control by police."
2. The Dubois reflective stick makes no mention of a handle for use as a cane nor the use of a rubber tip. The Dubois 's reflective stick has a handle at the lower end for use as a night stick. The cap of the Dubois stick is at the upper end.
3. The Dubois reflective stick has three main parts: a handle at the lower end, a middle, reflective section and a cap at the upper end. "The middle section reveals a transparent outer sheath covering an inner core or support cylinder made from relatively heavy, stiff material such as metal, wood, heavy plastic or cardboard to provide the minimum rigidity necessary for supporting the foil. that reflects light. The Dubois patent makes no mention of the type of material that transparent outer sheath is made from. The Dubois patent makes no mention of the type of heavy plastic use in the support cylinder. The foil used is Reflexite which is not a decorative foil.

In summary, the Countryman cane is made of PET<sup>G</sup> and its primary use is as an assistance in walking. The reflective garland lining and the reflective foil act as a safety feature as well as a fashion accessory. The handle of the Countryman cane is engineered to bare weight up to 300 pounds. The engineered slight flexibility of PETG is an important plus in walking with a cane. The only similarity of the Dubois cane is the use of reflective foil.



REMARKS:

SCHOCK 4,208,701

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The Countryman PETG cane proposed differs from the Schock Luminous Toy in the following ways:

1. The Schock patent is for a toy of 20 years ago.
2. The Schock toy uses an elongated hollow member having an annular wall formed of translucent material and connected at one of the light source of transmission of light longitudinally through out the member and the sinuous strip of light reflecting material. The Schock toy uses a light bulb, a reflector and batteries and a length of translucent plastic material cut from a plastic sheet and coated on both sides with metallic light -reflecting particles. The Schock toy uses an electrical circuit to light the toy and it reflects the plastic material with metallic particles

In summary, the Countryman cane is made of PETG. The Countryman cane does not use batteries, electrical circuits, light bulbs, or any type of switch. The garland or foil used in the Countryman cane is not related to the light reflecting translucent plastic material coated with metallic light-reflecting particles.



REMARKS:

GREENE PATENT NO. 2,435,650

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The Countryman PETG cane proposed differs from the Greene Illuminated Walking Stick in the following ways

1. The Greene cane is an illuminated cane using a lamp, a reflector, batteries and a switch. The Greene cane shows the electrical circuit of a lighted cane illuminated to the tip. The translucent material in a colored red signal at the tip end of the cane "which may be illuminated and clearly visible in the dark, rendering night walking less dangerous for the blind."
2. The Greene cane is comprised of a "main hollow section and a tip section, a translucent section formed with an axial bore and being of a distinctive color, a disk formed with openings mounted within the main hollow section..."
3. The Greene cane does not include a description of the specific material used for the handle or the shaft. "Another important object of the invention is to provide a walking stick which will be exceptionally strong to withstand the strain to which a walking stick may be subjected, when in use."

In summary, the Countryman cane is made of PETG. The Countryman cane does not claim to be a lighted walking cane. The Countryman cane does not use batteries, electrical circuits. The Countryman cane with decorative reflective garland or foil simply reflects the light of on-coming cars or any type of light.



REMARKS:

CAUSTIN ET AL. U.S. PATENT 2,642.519

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The Countryman PETG cane proposed differs from the Caustin Cane in the following ways:

1. The Caustin cane "has as its object the provision of a cane whereby enabling persons can go out at night with the assurance that motorist and drivers will be able to see and recognize their affliction in darkness as well as light."
2. The Causin cane uses a light bulb, a reflector, batteries and a switch . The Caustin cane uses an electrical circuit to light a cane shank made of polymethyl methacrylate, commonly known as "Lucite." to create a shaft of light. The light-reflecting body may be a highly polished metal plate or a small piece of mirrored glass.
3. The Causin cane "shank is covered with a layer of light-diffusing material that appears white—the lower section of the shank is covered with a layer of cloudy red light diffusing material."

In summary, the Countryman cane is made of PETG. The Countryman cane does not claim to be a lighted walking cane nor a cane for the blind. The Countryman cane does not use batteries, electrical circuits, light bulbs or any type of switch. The Countryman cane, with decorative reflective garland or foil, simply reflects the light of on-coming cars or any type of light.



REMARKS:

WINN ET AL. 6,394,116 B1

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The Countryman PETG cane proposed differs from the Winn Illuminated Walking Assistance Apparatus in the following ways:

1. The Winn Illuminated Walking Assistance Apparatus uses as its basis the standard off the shelf walking cane of the type sold by Medline Industries. This cane is constructed of high tensile strength aluminum and has a foam rubber hand grip. The handle of the cane is modified to receive a pair of batteries, a light bulb and a switch. The light pipe is in the lower section of the cane. It is constructed of molded acrylic in the form of a cylinder. The lower section of the light pipe is frosted to cause the light to become diffused. The remainder of the light pipe is clear. The light pipe may also be covered with a reflector which may be a reflective paint or a reflective foil.

In summary, the Countryman cane is a newly devised cane made of PETG without any properties like batteries, light bulbs, switch or electrical circuits. The reflective garland, or foil used in the Countryman cane cannot be compared to the reflective paint or reflective foil across the polished lower end of the light pipe. The handle of the Countryman is far different than the Winn aluminum modified handle which included the batteries, bulb and switch.





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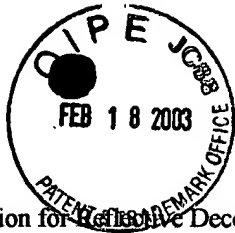
REMARKS:

WIPPERFURTH PATENT U. S. 6,463,947 B1

The Countryman PETG cane differs from the Wipperfurth walking aid in the following ways:

1. The Wipperfurth walking aid is light-emitting using a transparent shaft with an electrical power source with a top reflector, light rings and a switch. Other vertical reflectors can be permanent or attachable and adjustable. The high point of this invention is that the light may be directed forward, rearward, and /or sideward.
2. The Wipperfurth patent does not include the type of material used in the cane or transparent shaft.

In summary, the Countryman cane is made of a specific plastic resin or PETG. The Countryman cane uses foil and decorated silver garland as reflective material. The type of material in the Wipperfurth reflector is not specified. The PETG cane has no flashing light, no batteries, and no control switch. The appearance in the drawing of the handle of the Wipperfuth cane is an obvious difference from the Countryman Cane.



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Marked-up showing original.

Patent Application for ~~Protective~~ Decorative Cane

Inventor: Anne Countryman

File Date: 08/09/01

*File of invention Reflective Decorative Cane*

ABSTRACT:

*position(i)*  
A safety-enhancing decorative walking cane made of PETG transparent materials with a reflective foil or garland lining can be used not only as a fashion accessory in daytime but, most importantly at night as a safety feature. *Not 150 words - new version (i)*

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U.S. REFERENCES:

Patent	Issued	Inventor(s)	Title
US4027687	6/1977	McGowan	Protective and/or Decorative Cover for Walking Aids
US5331988	7/1994	Harmon	Walking Cane with Alternative Cover
US5219402	6/1993	Kondo; Yoshio	Stick Usable at Daytime and Night
US4236544	12/1980	Osaka; Takeshi	Safety-enhancing Walking Stick
US5197501	3/1993	Ragatz	Multi-purpose Cane
US4625742	12/1986	Phillips	Multi-function Lighted Cane
US4062371	12/1977	Bolen	Walking Cane
US5810466	9/1993	Young	Walking Cane
US6011481	1/2000	Luther; Husain	Walking Cane with Sensor
US5056545	10/1991	Spaeth	Safety Walking Cane

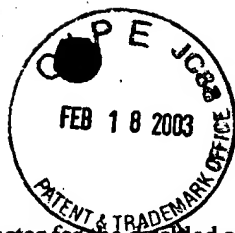
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION: *"Too much narrative and indefinite"*

I have had multiple sclerosis for a number of years so I have looked for alternatives to the aluminum canes. I was surprised to discover so few sources of interesting canes. Some of the unusual canes are not practical but interesting attention getters. They are not strong enough for support for the average sized person, they are not easy on the hand, and it is impossible to hang them on the arm or to rest them on a chair without falling to the floor. It is very hard for many handicapped to retrieve a fallen cane.

Canes have been around for many years. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century in England it was a necessary to have a license for the privilege of carrying a cane. The cane became a fashion symbol as well as a stabilizer for walking. Today many should-be-cane uses do not adopt the use of the cane because of how it looks, because it is a sign of failing or aging and disablement. They are proud and they do not consider a cane a fashion accessory. They move more slowly and they need something beyond the white cane of the blind to be able to cross the street, especially in the evening.

The desired cane has a slightly hook curved endshaft that reaches from a hand holding height down to the ground. The single foot supports the cane on the ground and the handle provides control of cane by the user. ~~I have found the cane with a slightly hook curved end to be the easiest to manage.~~

*15 easy*



Expense is a factor for the disabled as well as the senior citizen. If the cane is to be a fashion accessory as well as a walking stabilizer, it should be reasonably priced. If the price is very reasonable, the feminine user may want one for her black outfit, her blue dress or the green skirt. She has the necklace and earring to match, why not a cane?

(g) Drawings missing

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION (h) Detailed Description missing

The invention is an improvement over existing walking canes used by people with physical impairments that require them to have additional support while walking. There are some illuminated canes with batteries that require maintenance and add additional weight to the cane. Reflector tape is sold and wound around the cane shaft in some instances. This tape serves the purpose, but it is not attractive. The invention proposed is an improved addition to the handicapped or senior citizen's wardrobe. The addition of reflective foil and garland to the transparent PETG cane makes this a safety feature as well as a fashion accessory. More handicapped and senior citizens will choose to use an attractive cane.

CLAIM: (i) add detail but no new material.

What is claimed as being new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is as follows:

- \*an elongate PETG transparent shaft, which includes reflective foil or reflective garland inside.
- \*the shaft includes a slightly hook curved end at the upper end of the shaft
- \*a resilient friction tip mounted at a lower terminal end of the shaft

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